

21 July 1986

TALKING POINTS FOR THE DDI**SOUTH AFRICA: Unrest Update**

Black unrest has continued at high levels since the declaration of the state of emergency five weeks ago although Pretoria is claiming that its policies are succeeding.

- Pretoria probably is pleased that although it has been unable to stamp out unrest, largescale confrontations have been avoided.
- Official South African reports indicate that more than 160 people have died in unrest related incidents since the state of emergency was imposed 12 June.
- The respected South African Institute of Race Relations reports that the death rates for May and June (213 and 177) were the highest since the current round of unrest began in 1984. The daily number of unrest related deaths reported by the government is continuing at similarly high levels.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross believes some 6,000 people are now being detained under emergency regulations; other sources suggest that as many as 10,000 could be in detention.
- Eastern Cape Province appears to be the area of most intense opposition to the government. Black townships in this area remain particularly volatile despite curfews, heavy security force presence, and detentions.
- Violence also is continuing in some of the black homelands. A homeland official in KwaNdebele--near Pretoria--recently said that large-scale intimidation of civil servants is disrupting government services.

Although largescale detentions of union officials have nearly paralyzed industrial relations, black labor continues to offer the strongest challenge to Pretoria's emergency regulations.

- Union officials clearly recognize, however, that they are

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vulnerable to a harder crackdown, and, more recently have pulled back somewhat from direct challenges to the government.

- Last week's "Day of Action" demanding the release of jailed union leaders, sponsored by the 660,000 member Congress of South African Trade Unions, drew mixed support in different regions and industries. Union officials invested little political capital in the strike, preferring instead to allow unions to exercise local options.

Although most black students reportedly returned to schools when they reopened last week, the situation remains highly volatile since the detention of many student activists has created a leadership vacuum among black youths.

- New grating government regulations require students to re-register, carry ID cards, and ban meetings of student councils. The police also are attempting to control admission to school grounds by maintaining a heavy security presence, including road blocks and army and police patrols.
- The US Embassy reports that school principals in the Pretoria area doubt that the school term will last long and expect that once students are able to organize protests schools will be closed quickly.
- In what may be a precursor of new demonstrations, pupils at most high schools in Soweto refused to go to class last week, and violence reportedly erupted in at least two Soweto area schools. Students also reportedly burned ID cards and refused to attend classes in the Durban area.

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